

**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter, which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

**LASER WELDING SEAM WITH REDUCED END-CRATER AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION THEREOF**

<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing	<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> based on Application No. <u>PCT/EP2004/009678</u> filed <u>August 31, 2004</u> , and amended on _____ (for declaration not accompanying application)
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I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 385(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 366(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed (yes or no)
103 43 408.2	Germany	September 19, 2003	yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any material information under 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)
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**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint registered patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 30448 to prosecute this application and transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date 6.3.2006 First Inventor Helmuth EGGERS  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name  
Residence same as mailing Signature [Signature]  
Mailing Address Einsteinstrasse 17/1  
Citizenship German 89077 Ulm, Germany

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Date 2.3.2006 First Inventor Gerhard KURZ  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name  
Residence same as mailing Signature Gerhard Kurz  
Mailing Address Panoramastrasse 19  
Citizenship German 73240 Wendlingen, Germany

Date 2006-03-06 First Inventor Jürgen SEEKIRCHER  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name  
Residence same as mailing Signature Jürgen Seekircher  
Mailing Address Gartenstrasse 39  
Citizenship German 73760 Ostfildern, Germany

Date 6.3.2006 First Inventor Thomas WOHLGEMUTH  
First Name Middle Initial Last Name  
Residence same as mailing Signature Thomas Wohlgemuth  
Mailing Address Teckstrasse 2  
Citizenship German 72631 Aichtal, Germany